



"There is timing for everything. Greenville has transformed in 20 years from a place where no one wanted to be to where everyone wants to be."

**-Phillip R. Hughes, President
Hughes Commercial Real Estate Development
Greenville, SC**

Last year, the Hickory City Council visited leaders from five southeastern cities to learn how those communities are successfully transitioning to new economic realities. The themes emerging from the success stories included:

- Importance of public investment in the public spaces of their city
- Benefit of private/public partnerships
- Focusing on economic development and redevelopment
- Providing venues and programming for outstanding special events
- Engaging the philanthropic community for their support of activities and projects that will enhance the city

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These cities have seen their public investments leverage private investment and reshape entire districts and neighborhoods. Hickory already offers a high quality of life and many amenities. The Inspiring Spaces initiative seeks to engage community leaders in defining and building the next level of community amenities- the spaces that attract people and add value to our lives.

Do you have questions?
Contact Project Manager:
Andrea Surratt, AICP
Assistant City Manager
City of Hickory
asurratt@hickorync.gov
828-323-7412



HICKORY
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**INSPIRING
SPACES**

INSPIRING SPACES

Public space is everywhere: the streets we drive, bike, or walk on; the places where children play and encounter nature; the local parks where we enjoy sports, walk the dog, and sit at lunchtime; or the plaza where we gather with friends to listen to music. Inspired public spaces connect people socially and strengthen the community's attachment to the place.

Inspired public spaces are visually interesting and make use of art, sculpture, hardscape, landscape, natural features, historic markers, and other physical elements to create a memorable experience for everyone. An inspired public space reflects the local character and personality of the place - encouraging music and other cultural events that generate community cohesion.

What is the Inspiring Spaces Plan?

The Inspiring Spaces Plan will address streetscape, urban design, parking and associated landscaping, bike and pedestrian linkages, greenways, site furnishings, public art, wayfinding, and gateways. It is a city-wide planning process that will provide a framework for prioritizing improvements to the public infrastructure and properties that will improve and promote Hickory as a welcoming and vibrant destination, as well as a thriving place to work, live and play.



The plan will identify construction projects, their associated costs and an implementation schedule for improving the appearance and functionality of streets, parks and public areas throughout the city.

Competing for success in the marketplace means creating places where workers, entrepreneurs, and businesses want to locate, invest and expand.

Hickory has made significant investment in its public spaces over the years with parks, greenways, Union Square, the SALT Block, landscaped intersections on Hwy 70 and in downtown. The plan for Inspiring Spaces will seek to make strategic investments in Hickory through a capital improvements plan over the next 10 years.

As communities compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of quality parks and greenways, attractive streetscapes, vibrant plazas and other public spaces becomes an important marketing tool. With the Inspiring Spaces initiative, Hickory is positioning itself to lead the region in attracting new people and business.

Inventory and analysis of existing infrastructure, city master plans, the recent work of Hickory By Choice 2030, City Center Plan, and the Hickory Downtown Vision Forum.

Community input.

Finalizing the plan, including conceptual schematic drawings and proposed cross-section details for streetscape concepts.

Develop a budget and timeline for construction. This information will help formulate the strategy for financing the improvements over time.

TIMELINE

PHASE ONE

PHASE TWO

PHASE THREE

PHASE FOUR